



# YALE NATIONAL INITIATIVE

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Curriculum Units by Fellows of the National Initiative  
2022 Volume I: Children and Education in World Cinema

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## **The Child Migrant: Evaluating the Journey to the United States through Film and Nonfiction Text**

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by Brandon Barr

This unit explores the ways film represents the challenges and opportunities associated with children migrating from Central America to the United States. In this unit, students will watch *Which Way Home* for two purposes: to learn about documentary as a mode of filmmaking and to activate prior knowledge about immigration from Central America. Students will read the text *Enrique's Journey* by Sonia Nazario and discuss each chapter in class, reflecting on Enrique's experiences in the text. Finally, students will view the film *Under the Same Moon* and learn about elements of a film review to write their own version of a film review. This unit is written for middle school English Language Arts students assuming that they know little about film study or criticism; the content of the texts is not suitable for students in grades younger than middle school.

(Developed for Language Arts, grade 6; recommended for Language Arts and Social Studies, grades 6-8)

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